

Serial No. 09/740,465
Group Art Unit 1754

AI
5084
10. (Amended) A method as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising the step of recycling the regenerated first acid to the source of the metal pickling process acid.

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B
16. (Amended) A method as set forth in Claim 15, further comprising the step of recycling the regenerated hydrochloric acid to the ferrous metal pickling process solution.

20. (Amended) A method as set forth in Claim 15, wherein said sulfuric acid is added in excess of the stoichiometric amount to react with the ferrous ions.

AB
B
21. (Amended) A method of pickling a metal, comprising:
a) contacting said metal with a solution including a first acid for a time sufficient to pickle the metal;
b) removing said metal from resultant solution;
c) adding a second acid to resultant solution to produce a regenerated first acid and a metal salt of said second acid;
d) crystallizing said metal salt of said second acid; and
e) removing said metal salt of said second acid from resultant solution.

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22. (Amended) A method of regenerating the solution resulting from the pickling of metal at a temperature below 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 degrees C) capable of being crystallized by temperature reduction at a temperature below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, (0 degrees C), comprising mixing sulfuric acid with spent hydrochloric acid at a certain temperature and forming FeSO_4 capable of being crystallized by temperature reduction at a specific temperature to 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Cancel Claims 11-14 with formal traverse to the Restriction Requirement and without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 15-22 are in the case.

Claims 9, 10, 16, 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 9, 10, 16, 20-22 have been amended in compliance with the Examiner's suggestions.

Claims 9, 10, 16, 20-22 have been further amended to address the Examiner's concern and provide statutory definiteness as